

# VFT: CREEK NATION

# USER GUIDE

## OVERVIEW

The Creek Nation virtual field trip provides students with an in-depth look at the lives of the Creek Indians prior to the arrival of the first settlers in Georgia, the fight to remain on their land, and their removal from Georgia in the 1830s. We recommend that students explore this virtual field trip after they have completed Unit 4 of the [Georgia Studies Book: Our State and Our Nation](#). Teachers could use this activity as a group experience, provide class time for students to explore the field trip at their own pace, or assign it as homework in a flipped classroom setting.

## FEATURES

- **video** footage of interviews with experts who explain the lives of the Creek Indians and the historic events surrounding their removal from the southeastern United States
- biographical information about important Creek Indians like Tomochichi, Mary Musgrove, Alexander McGillivray, and William McIntosh
- **interactive maps** that illustrate Creek holdings prior to removal and the routes taken to Indian Territory
- **primary documents**, including historic treaties and a letter written by the wives of William McIntosh after his execution

## GEORGIA STANDARDS

**SS8H2** Analyze the colonial period of Georgia's history.

- b. Analyze the relationship between James Oglethorpe, Tomochichi, and Mary Musgrove in establishing the city of Savannah at Yamacraw Bluff.

**SS8H4** Explain significant factors that affected westward expansion in Georgia between 1789 and 1840.

- b. Evaluate the impact of land policies pursued by Georgia; include the headright system, land lotteries, and the Yazoo Land Fraud.
- d. Describe the role of William McIntosh in the removal of the Creek from Georgia.

## DISCUSS

1. The Creeks and the European settlers held different philosophies regarding the ownership of land. The Creeks believed that land should be held in common, for use by all, with no individual ownership. In contrast, the Europeans believed in the individual ownership of land. How did these differences affect the way each group handled land?
2. Why did the Upper Creeks choose to align with the British during the War of 1812? What were some of the reasons the Lower Creeks and the Cherokees chose to side with the United States during this war?

Continued on page 2

## VFT: CREEK NATION

## USER GUIDE

3. “The white tide rises, we can’t fight or stop it and if we don’t sell, we will be cast aside, homeless and treated like animals without any place to go.” Does this statement made by by William McIntosh change your perception of why he signed the Treaty of Indian Springs? Why or why not?
4. In the video Native Voices, members of both the Creek and Cherokee tribes discuss their history, beliefs, and lives. Why is it important to hear history from their perspective? What are some interesting facts you learned?

### EXTEND

1. Using the aforementioned quote by William McIntosh, and the information about Alexander McGillivray and the Treaty of Pensacola from the video Choosing Sides, write a persuasive essay explaining why relinquishing Creek land to the United States seemed like the correct choice at the time. Write a rebuttal explaining why ceding Creek land was a poor choice. Use additional facts that you learned in class and from the virtual field trip.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. [Georgia Stories: Mary Musgrove, A Georgia Biography](#)
2. [Georgia Stories: The Story of Chief William McIntosh](#)